

Hardware Store in Family Half Century This Week

Fifty years ago this week James Symon stopped travelling to operate a hardware store in his home town. And today the business is still in the family! Half a century later owner Mac Symon and his sister, Mrs. Marguerite Taylor welcome many friends and customers in Symon's Hardware store right next door to their father's original location.

James Symon bought his business from R. F. Johnstone, son of William Johnstone the undertaker. Back in 1912 the store was located where Bradley's meat market is now.

Grandfather First
Even then the hardware business was not new to the family. His father, Charles Symon, had a hardware business where the Bank of Montreal is now. But he died when his son James was just 14 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Symon both came out to this new land from Scotland and settled in Acton. They had six children who grew to adulthood and their names are certainly familiar ones to those who have lived here for many years.

James took over the hardware business which his son Mac now operates. Before this, James travelled for a Kitchener glove factory for 19 years.

Son, Son-in-law
Their son Jack was also in the hardware business at one time. His partner was his brother-in-law R. G. Campbell who had married Janice Symon. Their store was on the corner where the pool hall is now. Jack lived in several places, including the States, but died several years ago back in Acton.

The third son, Alec had a jewelry store where Junior Modes is. His widow, Mrs. Mabel Symon, makes her home in town with Mrs. Marguerite (Symon) Taylor.

A daughter Helen was a school teacher and married Jack McGill. The third daughter, Maggie, and her husband Mr. Corey built the lovely home where Mr. and Mrs. Gohn now live.

Dipped Out Gas
James Symon had his new location in its original location for

16 years — from 1912 to 1928. As well as their wide stock of hardware items they had two gas pumps out in front. (The tanks are still there!) Of course, customers for gas were few and far between. There was plenty of time, at first, to go out to a shed at the back of the store, dip the gas out into a pail and walk back to the street to pour it carefully into the gas tank of the precious car. Only other gas pumps in town then were owned by Mr. Cox, the veterinarian.

Mr. Symon owned the property next door — where the store is now — and used the old theatre for storage. This old "nickel show" was bought from William Johnstone and was run by H. S. Holmes.

It was closed when the theatre was built further down the street where A-B Supermarket is now.

Moved, Then Built
Next came a change in location, when Symon Hardware went in 1928 to where Gordon's Hardware is now.

Then in 1935 the old show was torn down and a new building

erected. A fine and modern store, then, just two years ago it was extensively remodelled and so it is completely up-to-date again.

Mac Symon went to school in Acton and then took a commercial course in Guelph for a year. After this, in 1924, he joined his father in the family business. It was in 1935, after her father's death, that his sister Marguerite came to help steadily. Before that of course she helped when needed. Mrs. Symon, their mother, died several years ago.

The impressive brick house on Willow St. where Mrs. Taylor and her aunt Mrs. Symon live still was built for Mr. and Mrs. James Symon in 1915. Now Mr. and Mrs. Mac Symon and their two daughters, Ann and Barbara, live in a new home right next door.

Clerk in the store is Harold Elliott, who with his brother, R. H. Elliott ran Elliott's general store here before selling it several years ago.

Years of memories are easily recalled by the brother and sister this week as they greet their friends in their bright and pleasant shop.



HAPPY DIRECTORS of the M. Z. Bennett public school opera last week were given a pleasant surprise at the conclusion of the Thursday night performance when cast members presented them with gifts of appreciation. Pictured above left to right are Barbara Browne, music supervisor Glenn Banks, Gery Ockenden, a cast member who made the speech, Mrs. Norman Turner, teacher, and Cheryl Lee.

Around the World In Just 18 Days

A bulging log book with "Round the World in 18 Days" penned on the front page has already been compiled by Mrs. Robert Buckner, just nicely settled back home after circling the globe with her daughter Janet, a Pan-American Airlines hostess. There are 42 pages filled with clippings, postcards, photographs and her journal of exciting experiences and first impressions from February 6, when they left New York, until February 23 when she returned home.

Their itinerary: Paris, Rome, Beirut, Lebanon (orange growing, chaotic traffic, refugee hordes); Teheran, Iran (natives in dingy clothes covering their faces, splendour of palaces); New Delhi; Bangkok, Thailand (94 degrees, floating markets on canals); floating gas stations, school bus and even floating traffic jam; 400 temples, orange-robed priests, saw classic Thai drama and ballet).

Shoppers' Paradise
Hong Kong "The Shopper's Paradise" trickshaw ride, meals with chopsticks, toured with friends government project to house 50,000 refugees, fish meal in floating restaurant.

Mrs. Buckner had a Thai silk dress and coat made by a tailor; Janet had a shocking pink wool suit and Suzie Wong dress made. Tokyo (fashion show of native costumes, auto exhibition, silk museum, worst traffic ever, geisha girl party, Kabuki dance theatre in Japanese, hotel, seaweed and cold fried egg for breakfast, slept on floor — bath rooms? "I haven't laughed so much for years"; Honolulu, Hawaii and then San Francisco.

As well as gifts she brought home a nasty cold picked up somewhere along the way.

Pot Luck Supper For I.O.D.E. Chapter

The March meeting of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter of the I.O.D.E. began with a pot luck supper at the home of Mrs. Chas. Heller, Bower Ave. Tuesday. After the meal Joe Petric of Lake Avenue, entertained with several selections on the piano accompaniment.

A short business session was conducted by the first vice regent, Mrs. Newton. Plans were discussed for the year's program; fund raising projects were decided upon.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A 28 voice choir of Ewart College in Toronto, will be the special guests at Giles Presbyterian Church in Galt, this coming Sunday Evening at 7 o'clock.

This College offers a three year course to girls of the Presbyterian Church in Canada who wish to become Missionaries at home or abroad, or serve in various congregations across Canada.

The public is invited to attend and enjoy this special evening service. The Choir is under the direction of Mr. H. Rosevear, F.C.C.O., F.T.C.L.

ABOUT YEAST

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HALTON COUNTY EGG PRODUCERS MEETING
TUES., MARCH 13, 1962, 8 P.M.
HORNBY ORANGE HALL, BASELINE HORNBY
SPEAKERS: Prof. J. P. WALKER — New trends in laying flock management.
Prof. ORR — Meeting today's egg quality demands.

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BALLINAFAD

Lay Groundwork For New Hall

A trustees' meeting for the new Mountain school on Friday. High hall met in Hillsburg. Mel Burden, Robert Rowan, Mrs. E. Smith and Mr. John Havocock represented Erin township. Walter Linham represented George Lee, who was unable to attend. C. E. Snow and Norman Sinclair represented Esquesing township. Mrs. Emie M. McEnery was appointed secretary and Mrs. Robert McEnery treasurer.

Several items of business were dealt with so as to have everything ready when the good weather comes to begin the work on the new Ballinafad hall.

Mr. Robert Shortill of Milton spent Sunday at the home of his brother, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Shortill.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Thompson who moved to Belmont at Christmas on the safe arrival of a baby son.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reid and daughter Ruth Ann of St. Catharines visited with Dr. and Mrs. Clifford Reid over the weekend.

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THIS SUNDAY'S Church Calendar

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA "KNOX CHURCH, ACTON"
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, 1962
9:45 a.m.—Church School.
10:00 a.m.—Minister's Teenage Bible Class.
11:00 a.m.—Divine Service. Sermon theme: "Behold the Lamb of God!"
(Junior Congregation, boys and girls, 3 to 7 years, meets during sermon.)
6:30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship supper meeting.
7:30 p.m.—World Day of Prayer Service, conducted by Daughters of Knox. Guest speaker, Mrs. F. R. Phillips of Galt.
Everyone Most Welcome

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON
Pastor: Rev. James M. Rudl
39 Nelson Court, Phone 853-0925
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, 1962
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
"The Pre-Eminent Christ"
Rev. G. Stanley Gammon
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service
"Value of Soul"
Rev. Stan Gammon
Wednesday, 7:30—Prayer meeting
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Spring Thank offering, Rev. Gordon A. G. Grande, Ligne Mission
All Are Welcome

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow and Bower
Rector:
The Rev. D. H. West, B.A., L.S.T.
185 Jeffrey Ave., Phone 853-2694
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, 1962
The First Sunday in Lent
8:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
9:30 a.m.—Family Eucharist and Church School.
11:00 a.m.—Matins and Sermon
7:30 p.m.—Evensong
8:00 p.m.—Young People's, The Rev. Douglas Dittich, Altar slides.
March 14, Ember Day, Wednesday
10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
7:30 p.m.—Mission Service and address, "The Church in Persecution."
All Are Welcome

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST IN ACTON Y.M.C.A.
For information, call Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Earl Presley
51 Longfield Rd., phone 853-1924
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, 1962
9:45 a.m.—Bible School Classes for all ages.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Speaker at both services, Rev. James Wilson, Streetsville.
Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Cottage Prayer Meeting, "Holding Forth the Word of Life."
All Are Welcome

ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
33 Churchill Road P.A.O.C.
Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor
75 Cook St., Phone 853-1357.
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, 1962
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Bible Study and Prayer.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
You Are Always Welcome

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario
Minister:
The Rev. Dwight J. Engel, B.A., B.D.
Organist:
Mr. George Elliott M.A.
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, 1962
9:30 and 11:00 a.m.—Divine Services
(A nursery is provided for infants during the 11 o'clock service.)
The Church School, 9:30 a.m.—The Senior School for those in grade 5 and higher.
11:00 a.m.—The Junior School for pre-schoolers to grade 4
7:30 p.m.—Young People's meeting. All over 14 welcome.
All Welcome

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Rev. J. Nutma, B.A., B.D. Minister
301 Queen St. Box 46, Phone 853-0375.
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, 1962
10:00 a.m.—English service.
2:30 p.m.—Dutch service.
All Are Welcome

Two Gifts, Kiss At Curtain Call

It's estimated about 800 saw and enjoyed The Daves O' Kerry Dancing — the M. Z. Bennett school opera — Wednesday and Thursday of last week in the Robert Little school auditorium. Profits will be for special equipment for the school, such as film strips or sports equipment.

After the curtain Thursday Gary Ockenden made a short speech and was rewarded with an impromptu kiss from director Mrs. Norman Turner, Barbara Browne and Cheryl Lee, still dressed as perky leprechauns, gave to Mrs. Turner a ceramic vase and to music director Glenn Banks a ceramic ashtray.

In two years the M. Z. Bennett school will again present an opera, according to the custom of alternate years for the two schools. So far — no plans.

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